

TABLE D-23

**MINIMUM WAGE HISTORY  
CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES**

<b>CALIFORNIA (IWC)</b>		<b>UNITED STATES (FLSA)</b>	
Women & Minors <i>a/</i>		Men & Women	
Year	\$ Per Hour	Year	\$ Per Hour
1916	0.16		
1918	0.21		
	(10.00/week)		
1919	0.28		
	(13.50/week)		
1920	0.33		
	(16.00/week)		
		1938	0.25
		1939	0.30
1942 & 1943	0.45 - 0.50 <i>b/</i>	1945	0.40
1947	0.65		
		1950	0.75
1952	0.75		
		1956	1.00
1957	1.00		
1961	<i>c/</i>	1961	1.15
1963	1.25 <i>c/</i>	1963	1.25
1964	1.30 <i>c/</i>		
		1967	1.40 <i>d/</i>
1968	1.65 <i>c/</i>	1968	1.60 <i>d/</i>
1974	2.00 <i>e/</i>	1974	2.00 <i>f/</i>
		1975	2.10 <i>f/</i>
1976	2.50 <i>g/</i>	1976	2.30 <i>f/</i>
1978	2.65 <i>i/</i>	1978	2.65 <i>h/</i>
1979	2.90 <i>i/</i>	1979	2.90 <i>h/</i>
1980	3.10	1980	3.10 <i>h/</i>
1981	3.35	1981	3.35 <i>h/</i>
1988	4.25 <i>j/</i>		
		1990	3.80 <i>k/</i>
		1991	4.25 <i>k/</i>
1996	4.75	1996	4.75 <i>l/</i>
1997	5.00 / 5.15 <i>m/</i>	1997	5.15 <i>l/</i>
1998	5.75 <i>m/</i>		
2001	6.25		
2002	6.75		

IWC: Industrial Wage Commission

FLSA: Fair Labor Standards Act

**Source:**

California Department of Industrial Relations

Industrial Welfare Commission

(916) 324-4163

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/>

Department of Finance, Economic Research Unit, (916) 322-2263

**Footnotes:***a/* In 1972, Labor Code was amended to include men under coverage by IWC Orders.*b/* In 1942 and 1943, the California minimum wage was raised to \$0.45 per hour in 7 of the 10 orders then in effect; in 1943, it was raised to \$0.50 per hour in the remaining three orders.*c/* In 1961, IWC promulgated a new order covering women

and minors in agricultural occupations. Minimum wage was raised to \$1.00 per hour for hourly-paid workers on farms employing 10 or more women and minors. Minimum wage was raised to \$1.30 per hour in 1965 and extended to both hourly and piece-rate workers on farms employing five or more women and/or minors. In 1968, a revised order was issued raising the minimum wage to \$1.65 per hour for women and \$1.35 per hour for 16 and 17 year old minors.

*d/* In 1966, the federal minimum wage was amended. Workers covered before 1966: \$1.40 (2/1/67) and \$1.60 (2/1/68).

Newly-covered employees: \$1.00 (2/1/67), \$1.15 (2/1/68), \$1.30 (2/1/69), \$1.45 (2/1/70), and \$1.60 (2/1/71).

Agricultural workers: \$1.00 (2/1/67), \$1.15 (2/1/68) and \$1.30 (2/1/69).

*e/* Extended to men, effective 3/4/74.*f/* In 1974, the federal wage was amended.

Workers covered before 1966: \$2.00 (5/1/74), \$2.10 (1/1/75), and \$2.30 (1/1/76).

Workers covered by 1966 and 1974 amendments: \$1.90 (5/1/74), \$2.00 (1/1/75), \$2.20 (1/1/76), and \$2.30 (1/1/77).

Agricultural workers: \$1.60 (5/1/74), \$1.80 (1/1/75), \$2.00 (1/1/76), \$2.20 (1/1/77), and \$2.30 (1/1/78).

*g/* In 1976, all IWC orders, effective 10/18/76, provided \$2.50 per hour, except a rate of \$2.15 allowed for learners and minors, within limitations.*h/* In 1977, federal minimum in all industries, including agriculture, amended as follows: \$2.65 (1/1/78), \$2.90 (1/1/79), \$3.10 (1/1/80), and \$3.35 (1/1/81).*i/* In 1976, California Legislature provided short procedure for IWC

to raise state minimum to federal minimum whenever federal goes higher. IWC issued Order MW-78, effective 4/1/78, to raise minimum to \$2.65 in 1978 and \$2.90 in 1979. IWC retained authority to set minimum wage higher than federal under regular procedures for amendment of orders.

*j/* California minimum wage raised, effective 7/1/88.*k/* Federal wage raised to \$3.80 on 4/1/90 and \$4.25 on 3/31/91.*l/* Federal wage raised to \$4.75 on 10/1/96 and \$5.15 on 9/1/97.*m/* California's Prop. 210 passed in 11/97 election, increased California's minimum wage to \$5.00, effective 3/1/97 and to \$5.75, effective 3/1/98.